

2020 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire for Developmental Disabilities:

Name: Martin A. Moore

District: 30th Legislative District

Position: State Representative, Pos. 1

1. If you have a personal connection or professional experience with someone who has a developmental disability, would you describe its impact on you?

My first exposure to DD issues and how they impact families' abilities to engage their community came when I was a Parks Commissioner for the City of Federal Way. I started recognizing and really understanding that many of our public facilities didn't truly serve *all* individuals, which drove me to work on reimagining what a park could look like. One of my proudest achievements from that was the creation of a park that hosts The Ability Whirlwind, an amenity that kids and adults in wheelchairs can enjoy, and touch-and-feel amenities for children with autism and other sensory disabilities. The philosophy that informed the building of those amenities have since been adopted as a guiding philosophy for the City's approach to parks, and I'm happy to say that Federal Way's parks are now planned and maintained with an eye on how they can also serve visitors with disabilities.



Additionally, I had the honor to work as the legislative aide for the late State Rep. Roger Freeman. He frequently worked on DD issues, which gave me exposure to the many challenges that DD parents faced. Roger and I worked together on parental rights legislation affecting DD parents, something that ultimately ensured the court system would work harder to see that DD parents retained custody of their children. Furthermore we began to work on DD employment relating to people with developmental disabilities getting fair pay for the job they worked.

Finally, I had the wonderful experience of working as an employee of the Arc of King County, where I especially enjoyed Advocacy Days in Olympia (**see below**)

2. What are your top three legislative priorities and how would you help people with developmental disabilities in them?

- a. Protecting working families, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic contributed to a massive shortfall in the state budget and has hit the nonprofit sector hard, hurting two of the chief resources that DD families can access for help. Focusing on our economy and targeting funds toward human services will be a top priority during budget season.
- b. Improving transportation, especially by supporting public transit. This is a huge issue in all of King County (and indeed in all of Washington), particularly along the I-5 corridor. Adopting a long-term goal of reducing the necessity of single-occupant vehicles will increase the mobility and employability of people with disabilities, working families, and low-income residents, and as a bonus will improve our air quality.
- c. Increase and entrench government accountability and transparency measures. So many of the resources available to DD families are funded by the state, and those families and DD activists need to know what program budgets look like,

how human services spending is working for them, and when such funding is threatened by external forces or internal bickering. I believe making such information available and accessible is key to the support and planning efforts of DD families throughout our state.

3. *With the current economic crisis, how would you protect services that people with I/DD and their families need?*

The area where I believe I can be the greatest help would be by ensuring that budget cuts stay as far away from human services as possible and using my background and experience with the DD community to advocate for protecting funding for DD-related services.

4. *Is there other information you'd like constituents with developmental disabilities and their family and friends to know?*

I've been an advocate and ally of DD families for the past decade, through my work on making inclusive parks to my rewarding time working for the Arc of King County. There should be no doubt that my interests, passion, and support lie firmly with people with disabilities and their families. Furthermore, I will always listen, meet with SAIL, DD Council, Arc of WA and other counties to actively work on issues that matter most to the DD community. I understand that people with disabilities want to have normalcy in their life and therefore, I will actively work to create access to transportation, jobs, and other amenities that we all enjoy. Furthermore, I will work to end subminimum wage in Washington State.

